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# Rethinking an Integrated Community Development Approach for Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the Displaced People in Nigeria

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Resettlement programmes in recent times have become predominantly focused on the process of physical relocation rather than on the infrastructural, economic, social and educational development of the displaced people. This has adversely affected the development effectiveness of resettlement and rehabilitation programmes and increased the impoverishment, insecurity and hygienic risk of the displaced people. The concomitant loss of economic power with the breakdown of livelihood systems results in often irreversible decline in living standards leading to marginalization, emotional trauma and overt stigmatization. To substantiate this observation, this paper seeks to make a theoretical analysis based on secondary sources and other available information to call for rethink on integrated community development strategy for resettlement and rehabilitation of the displaced people. Therefore the paper focuses on the concept of resettlement, rehabilitation, and displaced people, causes of resettlement and integrated community development for effective resettlement and rehabilitation. This will to some extent provide both government and non-governmental agencies an insight into proper resettlement practices. It recommended that any resettlement and rehabilitation programme should always aim at providing a comprehensively better condition far beyond the pre-displacement period.

**Keywords:** Resettlement, rehabilitation, displaced people, integrated community development (ICD)

## INTRODUCTION

One of the biggest and the most serious institutional and developmental failures attributed to issues of resettlement and rehabilitation in Nigeria has been the absence of an appropriate institutional framework, models or strategies that will facilitate effective resettlement for development purposes (Orovwuje 2012, Aboyomi 2016). It therefore becomes highly desirable to enforce an appropriate and legal institutional framework at the national, state and local levels, to simplify the processes of resettlement towards a meaningful development. It was based on this premise that Zoro, House Committee Chairman on Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Initiatives in the North east calls for the domestication of the Kampala Convention on internally displaced persons (IDPs), that it will lead to a permanent and holistic approach to the care of displaced citizens (Abayomi 2016).

The issue of displacement and resettlement often come to view at the point of any developmental project that might likely disconnect people either temporary or permanently from their original settlements, which can negatively or positively affect the wellbeing of the inhabitants of the project area. Sometimes resettlement occurs as a result of environmental catastrophe, which is often disastrous. In recent time, the activities of insurgents and terrorists have caused so much havoc and displacement to a very massive population especially in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. According to a report titled "Global overview 2014" Nigeria is said to have a population of 3.3 million persons displaced by conflict- the highest number in Africa. The deadly attacks on communities by Boko Haram insurgents and the destruction of properties, businesses and farmlands by other conflicts and disasters have forced many people to

flee from their town and villages to refugee camps or take refuge in neighboring states and countries (Aliyu, 2015).

These displaced communities have to be socially, economically and any wise rehabilitated, and the content of the rehabilitation package must be negotiated with all the categories of the negatively affected population, not only in the village community or the local government but also separately with collectives of each vulnerable group among them like the pregnant women, the disabled, landless, artisans, and the indigenous people. They must be informed about their options and rights pertaining to resettlement and consulted on, offered choices among and provided with technically and economically feasible resettlement alternatives. Therefore, any resettlement, which does not improve the lives and welfare of the displaced population, would be considered as an abuse and violation of human rights.

### Conceptual Framework

Resettlement according to Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary is to help people go and live in a new country or area. According IFC (2012) in Khimlal and Dangol (2015) described resettlement as a process to rebuild all the infrastructures in another site. It refers both to physical displacement (relocation or loss of shelter and to economic displacement) loss of assets or accesses to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood as a result of project-related land acquisition and or restrictions on land use. Rehabilitation on the other hand is helping somebody (people) to have a normal, useful life again after they have been very ill/sick or in prison for a long time (or displaced). It also means the restoration of the affected persons' resources, capacity to continue with productive activities and life style at a level higher or at least equal to their previous condition before the incidence that led to the resettlement or rehabilitation processes. In every development project, relocation of settlement for the displaced people commonly known as Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) is very challenging issue all over the world. These are groups who were forced to flee their home due to number of reasons like armed conflict, mega-development project and natural disaster but remained within their home country without crossing an international border. According to the African Union Convention for Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention, 2009) the term internally displaced persons is defined as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict situations of generalized violence, violation of human rights or natural or human made disaster and who have not crossed an

internationally recognized state border. (NPIDP, 2012, Article 1(k)).

Therefore broadly speaking the affected persons or the displaced people can be referred to person(s) who on account of the execution of any deliberate project or any social calamity had or would have their:-

- a. Standard of living adversely affected; or
- b. Rights, titles or interests in any house, land (including premises, agricultural and grazing land).
- c. Business, occupation, work or place of residence or habitat adversely affected, affected person include not only individuals but also legal entities such as company, public institution etc. It is also not restricted to those with legal registration or permission to live or conduct business in the affected location or their title to property, but rather, it also encompasses also all those affected by the project or calamity regardless of their legal rights or absence thereof to the assets being taken and person without residential permit to live in a certain area.

Therefore, all such persons who are affected will need to be considered and restored as affected person, irrespective of their legal status regarding assets, land or location.

Therefore, the objective should be a demand for a strategy through which the resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected persons will be compensated and their standards of living will be improved or at least restored to the pre-project levels in a sustainable manner. Affected productive resources of businesses, households, enterprises (including shops) and public facilities and infrastructures will also be improved or at least restored to their pre-project levels. The aim of an integrated community development strategy is to provide comprehensive facilities for the internally displaced refugees and ex-combatants with their dependents back into their communities, strengthen their general livelihood, security and promote reconciliation (NCRRR, 2001). The integrated community development approach centres around building an enabling environment for rural service delivery by facilitating development planning capacity and awareness, brokering linkages between government, donor organisations and the displaced communities.

### Causes of Displacement

It is generally known that both natural and man-made disasters can force people to move out of their houses (environment), for example, tsunami in South-Asia in December, 2004. Variety of such natural disasters like earthquake, landslides, volcanic eruption, fires, cyclones have kill thousands of people and destroy billions of dollars and properties (Dhameja, 2007). Crises or wars can also displace many others from their original settlements. Sometimes, it would be as a result of

developmental project to be executed, such as building of dams, bridge, industry, school, stadium, airport etc.

Apart from natural disasters, there are other factors, like project Execution, Town Planning, Political factors and Original master plan e.t.c can also cause resettlement, for example, the case of Bakassi peninsula of Cross River State, Nigeria. The most dangerous and most alarming causes of displacement is the on-going activities of the dreaded and deadly terrorist groups of Boko Haram that remain a threat and serious calamity in the most recent times if not for serious intervention of the present leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari.

Consequently, these incidences in whatever form it might be, many people would be rendered homeless, hopeless, useless, deserted and frustrated. Therefore, the need for proper resettlement of the surviving victims under a well sustainable condition that would improve the holistic welfare of the affected masses becomes highly expedient.

In these situations, Integrated Community Development (ICD) becomes a better alternative as proclaimed by Dhamadaran (2009) that, it provides a synergy through which holistic community development programmes and strong capacities of communities to plan and manage their livelihood with strong support from external agencies creates the foundation for productive use of external support by communities. This guarantees that communities become the main actor of their development and the support provided by government leads to the improved welfare of its citizens. This is why community development is seen as the process of developing active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about shifting power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives.

### **Principles of Effective Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the Displaced People**

A worldwide experience of the resettlement component demonstrated that unless the resettlement and rehabilitation component is planned and implemented as a development project, rather than, as an attempt to restore pre-project income and living standards, the large majority will be further impoverished. Resettlement is never an issue of just physical relocation, or removal of the relocates or to the reproduction of their pre-project living conditions, it is all about development and improvement.

The world commission on Dams presented in its report prepared as part of its information gathering activity, the following resettlement plan.

#### **i. It must improve the quality of life**

Resettlement and rehabilitation must aim at improving

the quality of life of the people by raising living standards beyond the pre-project levels.

#### **ii. It must be well planned**

Resettlement and rehabilitation must be planned and implemented as a development project over a minimum of two generations and include not only protective measures, but also the provision of new rights, resources and strategies. As a development programme, the plan should aim at:

a. "A sustainable improvement, both in terms of objective indices as well as of subject criteria employed by the relocation themselves of the quality of life of the majority of the displaced, and particularly of the poor and the marginalized.

b. "A cumulative and lasting empowerment of the displaced persons resulting from their effective participation in the decision-making process relating to the development project (and particularly to those parts that relate to their resettlement components) and manifesting itself in a greater degree of control over their day to day affairs. (Bartolome, Wet, Mander, Nagraj, WCD 2000:36-40).

#### **iii. Baseline and Bench Mark Studies**

The absence of comprehensive baseline studies enumerating the precise numbers of people who may be negatively affected and also provide a comprehensive picture of their socio-economic organization and standard of living. Very often, the number of people who may be negatively affected is under estimated, if there is no clear idea of the categories and numbers of potentially negatively affected people there can be no clear idea of the costs involved, and accordingly no way of making a decision on the least displacing option or the implication of choosing an option (ibid)

Sound base line studies are also important to allow for the development of indicators that will allow for assessing the impacts of the resettlement programme on the socio-economic aspects of resettled communities and their standards of living. The continuous assessment of impoverishment risks to the negatively affected people would require a monitoring mechanism based on a set of indicators. Socio-economic bench mark surveys and baseline studies of the entire population that may be negatively affected must be completed and publicly reviewed prior to planning resettlement. The studies must delineate the various categories of affected people and the losses and risks they may likely face

#### **iv. Information about the resettlement and rehabilitation provision and policy.**

It is the mandate of the state or project proponents to disseminate information through the use of appropriate

local media on the full detailed account on the following:

- a. Proposed land to be acquired along with plot numbers and other details.
- b. Expected land to be affected by the project but which is not being acquired.
- c. Plot numbers of land-for-land and resettlement sites.
- d. Detail time-table on the phasing of resettlement and rehabilitation.
- e. Criteria for eligibility for benefits under the resettlement programme.
- f. Proposed compensation and processes of assessment for award of compensation.
- g. The draft of the resettlement policy with reference to the financial and institutional arrangements thereof.
- h. The specific components of the resettlement and rehabilitation programme such as provision of basic amenities at resettlement sites, education, irrigation and credit facilities, employment generation, capacity building etc.
- i. The social impacts including on host community in area of resettlement. The resettlement programme and policy must be finalized only after public debate and consultation with the affected people (India report, 1999).

#### **v. Phasing of Physical Relocation**

Physical relocation should be planned according to careful schedules, driven by needs and best interest of the affected population. The relocation of people must be facilitated so as to minimize the trauma and risks of relocation.

#### **vi. Definition of Eligibility for Benefits**

Eligibility criteria of the resettlement and development policy need to be broad based and inclusive, to be able to address the widespread impact of the diverse aspects of the project upstream and down-stream as well as host communities and those negatively affected by compensatory and mitigation measures. There is however a strong cost to expand the meaning of the negatively project affected persons. "In most cases, resettlement agencies and governments have considered only directly affected people to be eligible for compensation and rehabilitation projects may also "indirectly" affect a number of other categories of people. A large number of indirectly affected people do not receive recognition in national policies (Bartolone *et al* 1999).

#### **vii. Compensation**

Compensation must include customary and legal rights and the future value that the land may generate for the community as a whole. To this end, not only individuals but also whole communities are eligible for compensation. In other words, the basic principles must

be rights for rights, just like land for land. There should be transparent and justifiable mechanisms to calculate the replacement value of all assets, and the date for calculation should not be the date of original notification, but instead the date on which the compensation is actually disbursed.

#### **viii. The Chinese Principle of Resettlement**

The Chinese plan clearly underlines a very important principle of resettlement based on an integrated strategy that combines land and non-land based activities in order to protect and ensure livelihood. The integrated mobilization of persons, agencies and materials resources in programmes that are designed to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of rural communities becomes necessary for a sustainable practice. As such, resettlement plans must focus on building skills of negatively affected through substantial investments in

- a. Imparting training in new relevant skills that are in demand in the regional and local community.
- b. Enhancement of the skills that people possess and
- c. Special measures to facilitate such capacity building amongst women.

This would also call for resettlement plans to develop linkages between the other sectors of the economic and the negatively affected economy within the resettlement programme. A more fundamental aspect to be given a considerable attention in resettlement plans is the area of literacy and schooling of the displaced communities. Education apart from its intrinsic importance, it is also one of the most valuable means of building capacities to access social and economic opportunities. Resettlement and rehabilitation plans must therefore focus on education as a basic right of the negatively affected people and ensure free basic schooling for all children of the negatively affected people with a special focus on girl children.

#### **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ICD) APPROACH TO RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION (R&R) OF THE DISPLACED COMMUNITIES.**

In this context, the internally displaced persons have formed a "displaced community"; a network of people shared by joint experiences, sharing certain common values, having specific concerns, feeling bonded to each other, and often living in a particular geographical area.

A deeper form of integrated community development blends both the process of bringing collective social change and justice and improving productivity and improving livelihoods by working with communities to strengthen their capacities to:

- (a) Identify their needs, opportunities, right and responsibilities

(b) Plan, organize and take collective action and  
 (c) Evaluate the efficiency and outcomes of their actions, vis-à-vis talking inequalities and moving toward the vision created by the community. (Dharmadaran, 2009).

In this sense, any form of resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) aimed at restoration of the peoples' dignity and respect need not to isolate the concerned communities. They must have to be actively involved in all matters that concern their welfare and social benefits. Arikawei and Etigbamo (2015) reported that integrated approach otherwise known as the integrated community development (ICD) seems to be more effective and comprehensive. The approach emphasized the involvement of community members in participating in programmes and activities for the provisions of human needs not only in physical infrastructures but also the emotional, socio-political, economic and technological enterprise of the people concerned. (Mabogunje 1989, Akinyemi 1997). The success of the resettlement and the rehabilitation lies heavily in the peoples' involvement and collective effort. Jaysawal (2013) writes on Community Managed Resettlement (CMR) as one of the good practices of R&R around the world. It does not mean mere community participation but community control and its ownership of resettlement programme. The more the resettlement programme is community and collective centred, the greater the changes of it succeeding. Arikawei & Etigbamo added that the essence of the integrated community development as conceived by the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE, 2006) is to achieve development to engender the social, economic and political justice that will lead to the liberation of mankind through the eradication of scourges such as mass poverty, disease and illiteracy. The Integrated Community Development (ICD) model is a holistic system that is structured to link and synthesize all the various stakeholders of the community to harness their potentials. The aimed at bringing the desired change in the social, economic, political and technological advancement of the people to improve the quality of life in the society (ibid).

In this regard Imhabekhai (2009) concluded that ICD is a potent tool for promoting equity, peace, justice and happiness which are necessary for the attainment of national development. It is important machinery needed to bring about changes in human capacity to generate increase activities and efficiency in human and material wellbeing for societal growth and development.

Based on this analogy, it is substantial to predict that implementing certain ICD operational principles will provide an effective and efficient means of resettlement and rehabilitation of the displaced communities. They are like catalyst which helps in accelerating community action. These are communication, seminar/workshop, in-service on the job training, sensitization, conscientization and research/documentation which are discussed as follows:

## **Communication**

The power of communication in integrated community development is indispensable. It is the life blood of an institution and the lubricant that keeps the intricate machinery of organization going, James, Ode and Soola (2004). In this sense, the displaced communities need to be constantly informed about all issues related to their social wellbeing. Communication is very crucial in integrated community development processes because: i. People need to be convinced of what is in their best interest to be involved in a given resettlement and rehabilitation programme; ii. People need to be adequately informed about the desired goals and objectives of a R&R process and as to what is required of them to achieve the goals and objectives of the project or programme; iii. People need to be made aware, equipped, skilled, organized and utilized for effective involvements and participation in the R&R programme; iv. To build good interpersonal relations; v. To obtain a favourable response, actualized through positive change of attitude to the R&R programme;

## **Seminars and Workshops**

These are essential tools of ICD which provide opportunities for training the displaced community members. They are short term inputs which are used in providing new information or to extend awareness on new innovations and current issues that will benefit the displaced communities. It also provides a means of informing the community members with results of recent research findings on issues related to their current condition. Seminars and workshop are very essential tools used in sensitizing and preparing displaced community members especially on matters related to personal hygiene, security consciousness and rehabilitation package.

## **Vocational Education**

This is an essential ingredient of integrated community development practice that can be used to greatly enhance the lives of any displaced communities. It includes skills acquisition, professional training, in-service/on the job training of a vocation given to someone to be more effective and efficient in that occupation, Ani (2003). This could be commercial, technical or professional in content and for the updating of knowledge. It involves the learning of a particular action or skill, knowledge and ideas designed to enable community members understand their work more effectively for greater advancement in life. Therefore this can be embedded within the components of any

rehabilitation programme provided either in their various camps or relocated place, so that they will be preoccupied and become psychologically disengaged from their present predicaments.

### **Sensitization**

This is yet another element used as a tool for the integration of community development activities. Sensitization has to do with the creation of awareness on a particular issue or issues important to the displaced communities. Sensitization can be successful when community members are effectively mobilized. Sensitization can be used to change people's perception on a particular issue and prepare them for community action. When the people are sensitized on the benefits of a particular resettlement or rehabilitation programme, they will be willing and ready to partake and comply with the programme. This will create a sense of relief and confidence in the minds of the displaced communities in such a way that their maximum cooperation can be elicited.

### **Conscientization**

The word conscientization was made popular by Paulo Freire, a Brazilian educationist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to Nzeneri (1996), conscientization is a process which enables individuals develop themselves through critical awareness of their problems and their environment. In his assertion, Osuala (1995) equally acknowledge Paulo Freire who asserted that adults are the subject and architect of their own development and conscientization provides the stimulus which energizes the marginalized adults to free themselves from oppression. It is a process by which people became aware of themselves and their innate potentialities in order to restructure an oppressive society. Conscientization is an effective integrated community development tool that can appropriately harness successful R&R programme.

### **Research/Documentation**

This is another integrated community development tool. The role of research in the development of any nation cannot be over-emphasized. According to Barikor (2005) research is a diligent search, study, inquiry, examination, investigation, or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts for the revision of accepted theories, laws or practice in the light of new findings. It is an intellectual function for personal and professional growth and efficiency in every field of human endeavour in a bid to understand and actualize any successful R&R plan. Research and documentation

will help in getting the correct population, demography and qualification etc of the displaced community members for proper placement and support. It also helps in stocking, validating and retrieving data for cultural, socio-economic, political and educational purposes

### **Education**

Education is one of the indices of development. No community can develop without the essential and requisite education for its populace. Hence, education is an important factor or element in integrated community development. Development can never be attained by a nation that its citizens are uneducated and illiterate. According to Kosomani (2002) education is a universal practice or phenomenon engaged in, by societies at all stages of development. It prepares the young people for active participation in the maintenance and development of society. Education emancipates the human mind, develops the potentials and imparts useful and relevant skills to individuals, thereby enhancing the growth of the society. The foregoing shows that education is an essential component of any R&R programme. It must be given the utmost priority in any successful R&R programme. There should be adequate and sustainable planning for the provision of quality education for both young and adults of the displaced communities both before and after the resettlement and the rehabilitation programme.

### **Health**

The old adage that says health is wealth is a clear indication of the importance of health to the development of any nation. Any resettlement and rehabilitation programme that undermines health matters would be seemingly worthless. Health which is the state of mental and physical wellbeing is an essential component of integrated community development because it is only a healthy community that can contribute to national development. The health-care of the displaced communities has to be given utmost attention in the course of any successful R&R programme, especially in the provision of welfare facilities and first-aid training programme particularly at the camps.

### **Nutrition**

The continuous survival of every human being depends on food. It is virtually necessary to ensure the adequate provision of food to the displaced communities at their various camps while the planning for their resettlement and rehabilitation is on the process. Since the displaced communities abandoned all their possessions including food items, a meaningful R&R

must ensure the adequate provision of quality and sufficient food for the displaced people. Then after the resettlement programme each house must be given adequate food that will cater for their wellbeing until when they are completely settled and self- dependent.

### **Agriculture**

The integration of agriculture in resettlement and rehabilitation programme is an essential integrated community development approach aimed at providing improved agricultural output. Since over 10% of the Nigeria's population is involved in subsistence agriculture, it becomes necessary to make such a provision in the course of resettlement of the displaced communities. This is will support the people produce what they will eat as well a source of earning to cater for daily needs. This does not means that they are refrain from further external support.

### **Housing**

Housing is an important element in integrated community development approach and also the most important aspect of resettlement and rehabilitation plan second only to food, the basic need of man. The provision of adequate housing must be an integral part of any successful R&R programme. A nation cannot be developed when its citizens lives in slumps and insecure homes. Therefore, any attempt to improve the living standard of the people must incorporate housing as an essential component of rehabilitation index.

### **Security**

An integrated community development approach also entails security. Because the lives of the displaced communities is at a risk, as they can be vulnerable to further attacks in their IDP camps or the relocated areas particularly in the case insurgency where the life of innocent citizens is not safe. The provision of adequate security of lives and properties is very crucial to any resettlement and rehabilitation programme.

### **Infrastructures**

Infrastructural development is a cardinal focus of any integrated community development approach and also vital factor in any R&R programme. All the necessary infrastructures that will improve the standard of living and make life meaningful to the displaced communities must be considered by whichever agency is involved in the R&R programme. One of the paramount

infrastructures that must be put in place is portable water, electricity and health/maternity clinics.

### **Politics**

This has to do with the creation of awareness and awakening of civic consciousness among the displaced communities. It has to do with the education of the populace about the electoral system, democracy and political participation. Since no community can live in isolation, the effective participation of community members in the political process is very important and crucial. On no ground should the relocates be marginalized on the basis of their resettlement.

### **Recreation**

Recreation and the use of leisure is also an important component of integrated community development programme. With the increasing neglect of traditional forms of recreation, there is danger of community life becoming dull and increasing in social problems such as alcoholism, idle gossip, quarrel, litigation and waste of money. Hence recreation is a useful ingredient for integrated community development programme, which should never be undermined in the course of any resettlement and rehabilitation plan.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

It is obviously clear that resettlement and rehabilitation is an activity, which usually evolves consequent upon displacement of people, caused by environmental hazards, execution of development project or deliberate relocation by the authorities. The displaced communities should be resettled in a condition more conducive and comfortable than their previous status. In essence, meaningful resettlement and rehabilitation project should envisage and encompass a form of holistic and comprehensive approach that would take an overall consideration of all the aspects of human well-being when designing the resettlement and the rehabilitation schedules. Government or the non-governmental agencies involve in the project should make sure that all necessary preparation and arrangement have been completed before the resettlement exercise begins. It should be a well plan and on a gradual process that would not leave the life of the affected people at a stake.

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